

WLBT/WJDX Radio Broadcast

Ross Barnett on Robert Kennedy

April 11, 1967

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Post Office Box 571

Jackson., Mississippi 39205

AU/MP 1980.01.372

Participant(s): Barnett, Ross

Title: Ross Barnett on Robert Kennedy on April 11, 1967

AU/MP1980.01.372: TRACK 1

ANNOUNCER: The following political telecast was paid for by former Governor Ross Barnett.

[Long pause]

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BARNETT: My fellow Mississippians, it was certainly no accident that Bobby Kennedy came to Mississippi just as the governor's race begins to take shape. He came here to oppose my candidacy for the governorship of Mississippi. In his typical left-wing fashion he has again, resorted to his same old trick of misrepresenting the facts to generate dissention among Mississippians. The truth, my friends, is not in Bobby Kennedy. He said, yesterday in Jackson, that I concurred and approved of James Meredith entering Ole Miss. This statement is wholly untrue. As your governor, I was faced with the greatest array of raw, federal power ever experienced by any governor in the United States. Bobby Kennedy is personally responsible for sending over 30,000 armed troops and United States marshals to the Ole Miss campus. He federalized the Mississippi National Guard to take it away from your governor. There was no approval nor concurrence on my part. I was told in no uncertain terms by Bobby Kennedy that he was going to put Meredith in Ole Miss regardless of what it took to do so and, under these circumstances, I had no alternative. My friends, thereafter, I was prosecuted in the United States Circuit Court of Appeals by Bobby Kennedy. Bobby Kennedy signed four affidavits against me in the Circuit Court of Appeals charging me with opposing Meredith's entry to Ole Miss and refusing to cooperate with the Kennedys. My friends, I hold in my right hand the four affidavits which Bobby Kennedy signed against me. How can he now charge me with a deal or collusion with the...when the court records proved to the contrary, and when I was forced to live for more than two years under threat of a ten thousand dollar a day fine and imprisonment for refusing to cooperate with him. Bobby Kennedy is more hostile to Mississippi and other southern states than he is to Castro's Cuba, our enemies in Vietnam, or to Red China. We all know that Bobby Kennedy has stated that he would give his blood to our communist enemies. My friends, when J. Edgar Hoover stated that Martin Luther King was the biggest liar in America, the only mistake Mr. Hoover made was not including Bobby Kennedy. Mr. Hoover also proved Bobby Kennedy a liar in connection with the now famous wire tapping investigation. Bobby Kennedy continues to state an untruth when he says I made a deal with him or agreed to and was willing for Meredith to come to Ole Miss. My friends, Ross Barnett made no deal with Bobby Kennedy or anyone else. The late President John Kennedy said, after Meredith entered

Ole Miss, that I opposed his entrance at all times. The President of the United States told the truth, and Bobby Kennedy knows it. I, here and now, challenge Bobby Kennedy or any of his friends to prove their untruths and misleading statements about Ross Barnett in connection with my stand at Ole Miss or to acknowledge, once and for all, that their attempts to smear me are their underhanded method of trying to shift the on me rather than on Bobby Kennedy where it rightly belongs. My friends, the truth is that Bobby Kennedy came to Mississippi to advance his personal, political ambitions. He has an uncontrollable desire to become President of the United States. He wants a man in the Governor's office in Mississippi who will support him. He knows that Ross Barnett will actively oppose him. He met with his political friends here in Jackson, and his candidate for Governor of Mississippi will be repeating Bobby's attack on Ross Barnett. My friends, it is my sincere belief that the people of Mississippi will reject any Kennedy candidate. Now, my kindest suggestion that I can make to this young, New York politician, my friends, is to return to his adopted state, get a haircut, and stay out of Mississippi politics. Thank you and goodnight, my friends.

ANNOUNCER: The preceding political telecast was paid for by former Governor Ross Barnett.

END OF TRACK 1

AU/MP1980.01.372: TRACK 2

Same recording as AU/MP1980.01.372: TRACK 1

END OF TRACK 2

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